Mulholland, Harris take new roles at White Sands

In an effort to further improve services to both internal and external customers, the Propulsion Test Office at the White Sands Test Facility has been reorganized.

The move is designed to consolidate responsibility for shuttle depot operations and propulsion testing under one manager, and responsibility for propulsion facilities under another manager.

Mulholland

John Mulholland will take on the duty of shuttle depot and test manager. He will be responsible for budget, schedule and overall coordination of shuttle-related projects including shuttle depot operations and capabilities development, Orbital Maneuvering System/ Reaction Control System fleet leader testing and Improved Auxiliary Power Unit testing.

Mulholland joined the WSTF staff in 1986 and has held positions of increasing responsibility—including operations director on numerous shuttle propulsion test projects—and has developed expertise in shuttle propulsion systems and components which has been recognized and utilized extensively by other organizations, including JSC and Kennedy Space Center. He has served as project manager of the orbiter maneuvering system/reaction control system fleet leader project since 1993 and of the depot development and repair effort since 1994.

Harris

David Harris will become propulsion facilities manager and will be responsible for budget, schedule and overall coordination of maintenance, modification and non-test operations in the propulsion facilities.

Harris came to WSTF in 1982 and has developed expertise in altitude simulation systems and propulsion test facility design and activation, with experience as operations director for altitude simulation systems and space station propulsion module testing, design/ construction responsibilities for test stand 303, and activation manager of test stand 302 to support space station testing.

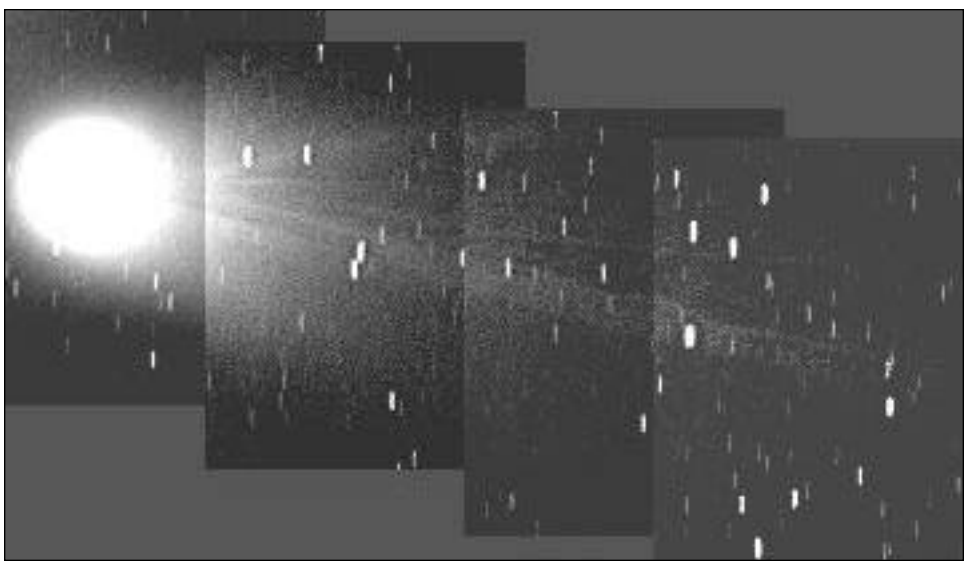
Space station design review meeting held

NASA, its international partners and contractors met this week at JSC for the second Space Station Incremental Design Review.

The three-day review began Tuesday and continued through Thursday. The review was designed to verify that the International Space Station system design will support requirements for safe and successful launch package integration, launch, on-orbit assembly, operations and utilization of the vehicle.

The review focused on the first eight flights of the station assembly sequence, beginning with the launch in November 1997 of the Russian-built FGB control module, continuing through the installation in September 1998 of the large photovoltaic arrays that will provide electrical power for the U.S. laboratory module, and concluding with launch of the U.S. lab in December 1998.

The status of all major station subsystems was covered, as were critical operations such as extravehicular activities and robotics and reviewed potential adjustments to the assembly sequence related to Russian segments of the space station. The meetings involved representatives from NASA and its prime International Space Station contractor, Boeing, as well as international partners Canada, the European Space Agency, Japan and Russia.



COMET HYAKUTAKE—JSC's Al Kelly of the Mission Operations Business Management Office captures the Comet Hyakutake using a 380mm lens on a home-built astronomical camera. On Jan. 30, Yuji Hyakutake in Japan discovered this new comet and subsequent observations determined that the comet passed as close as 9.3 million miles from Earth on Monday. The comet is expected to continue to be a bright object throughout March, April and May. Comet Hyakutake is the brightest comet since Comet West in 1976.

Panel discussions to focus on teaching

JSC's Careers Plus+ Program will sponsor two panel discussions for employees interested in teaching high school or college-level courses.

Employees interested in becoming high school teachers may attend a partners in education high school panel discussion from 1-3:30 p.m. April 3 in Bldg 45, Rm. 304. Employees can learn more about the certification process, the teaching environment in the public school districts and make contacts for teaching positions. Employees interested in becoming college instructors may plan to attend the panel discussion set for 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday in Bldg. 45, Rm. 304. Panel members including former JSC employees who now teach in colleges or universities and representatives from local colleges or universities. Following the discussion, there will be a two-hour class, "Preparation for College Teaching," by the Career Transition Assistance Program.

For more information call the Human Resources Development Branch at x35266.

Changes, updates to STS-1 party

JSC's "Liftoff Party" celebrating the 15th anniversary of STS-1, set for April 12 has been moved, improved and expanded.

The party will still be held April 12 but will now be at Space Center Houston. The party, originally scheduled from 4:30-7:30 p.m., will now be from 5-9 p.m.

Why the changes? April 12 also is the 35th anniversary of the first manned Russian rocket launch of Yuri Gagarin. The city of Nassau Bay, the sister city of Star City, Russia, previously had planned and announced the first annual Russian Festival for April 12-13. JSC and Nassau Bay have combined the events. The festival celebrates both anniversaries along with highlighting the increased cooperative space initiatives between the U.S. and Russia.

Tickets are on sale at the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store. Ticket prices for the combined festival at Space Center Houston, will be $5 for ages 5 and up and are available through April 12. The first 1,000 tickets sold at the Exchange Store will include a commemorative button of the STS-1 15th anniversary. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Parking at SCH is free.

All exhibits and activities available at SCH, except tram tours, will be open for festival participants. Optional food purchases can be made at the Silver Moon Cafe. Live entertainment will include a Russian Dance Troupe, Troika Band and the Lone Star Bluegrass Band.

For information call the Exchange Store at x35350.

Mission Kidtrol puts children in commander, ground, station seats

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the existing facility, adjacent to SCH's Starship Gallery.

The interactive play areas include:

Lunar Jumper: This attraction will give children an opportunity to experience one-sixth the Earth's gravity simulated by a system of cables and compressed air.

Lunar Rover: A replica of the actual lunar rover will feature a monitor in front of the vehicle playing a moving landscape as a rumbling seat and a moving power throttle give children the feeling of driving on the Moon's surface.

Mission Kidtrol: This attraction is a five-station mockup of communications consoles where kids will be given a mission book to complete tasks. This activity provides an opportunity to learn the importance of flight and ground teams working together.

Space Shuttle: Once children have guided the shuttle through a successful mission, they can take their turn at the commander's seat in the shuttle. Equipped with ground control communication, young shuttle pilots will have a mission book of tasks to complete.

Escape Hatch: When they get ready to leave the second floor space shuttle, children can exit via the escape hatch, a covered curling slide that reaches between the two floors.

Apollo Command Module: Kids can climb aboard this simulated interior of the Apollo capsule and execute tasks while lying on their backs.

Space Station: This mock will give children the opportunity to conduct experiments in the station setting. Kids can test their heart rate and body temperature while completing a variety of tasks in the mission task book.

Mars Rover: One of the tasks in the space station mock up is to drive a remote Mars rover located on the first floor. Guests downstairs can watch a video monitor that will show real-time explorers upstairs using computer monitors to perform mission tasks by remote control.

Rocket launcher: Children will control a launch from start to finish, from activating the pump to fuel the rocket to hitting the button that begins the launch sequence. Amid warning lights and sounds the rocket will launch to the top of SCH's five-story structure.

Building a Rocket: Rocket builders will utilize a computer program that will instruct on how to actually build a multi-stage rocket.

Flying in Space: Children will be strapped into a Manned Maneuvering Unit that simulates pitch and roll while trying to focus a laser on targets. A second display will teach young explorers about yaw, pitch and roll with hands-on shuttle models.

Wind Tunnel: By placing their hands into a glove in the middle of the Wind Tunnel, children can feel the effects of wind resistance and learn the concept of lift and the importance of the shape of wings on spacecraft.

Aliens From Another Planet: Visitors may think they have come from another planet when they step on scales that simulate weight on another planet and check out mirrors that create distorted images.

Cosmic Weightlifter: By pushing a button, the barbell in this area can be set to simulate what it would weigh on another planet.

Gravity Wells: By turning a hand crank that operates two different-sized wells, children can experience how different levels of energy must be applied for similar results.

Earth From Space: At these stations, visitors will be able to imagine they are looking out the windows of the shuttle as it orbits the Earth. Touch-screen technology will allow guests to choose a designated spot to view from space.

Lego Craters: Children can let their imaginations run wild and create their own vision of space exploration.

Lucid feels 'at home' on Mir

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Most of the day Monday was spent transferring water, hardware and logistical supplies and conducting experiments in the Spacehab module. The crew successfully docked *Atlantis* to Mir at 8:43 p.m. last Saturday. Chilton guided the shuttle to a linkup and less than two hours later Lucid greeted her Mir 21 crew mates on the station. Lucid will remain on the station until August when *Atlantis* will return to bring her home and Astronaut John Blaha will replace Lucid to begin his stay on the Russian outpost.

"When we floated in (to Mir) it felt pretty much like I was coming home because I have been in the trainer in Star City quite a few of times," Lucid said. "I felt very comfortable coming in and of course Yuri and Yuri were there and they welcomed us very warmly. It's sort of like coming back home and seeing your friends. Yuri and Yuri have gone out of their way to make all of us feel very welcomed and comfortable here in their home."

The STS-76 mission began a day late as high winds delayed a launch until 2:13 a.m. Friday. While flight controllers noticed a leak during launch in one of the three redundant hydraulic lines on *Atlantis*, once in orbit no indication of a leak was observed. The system is used to operate the shuttle's steering equipment during launch and landing and still contains sufficient fluid for a landing on Sunday.

For the latest information on the *Atlantis* crew's welcome home ceremony, call the recorded Employee Information Service at x36765.

Space News Roundup

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Coffee makers pose safety problems

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involve electricity, and at least 10 percent of those result from faulty power strips."

The most unusual electrical report was a coffee pot that burned itself up after being left on for an extended period of time. The Mr. Coffee brand coffee maker ignited with coffee still in the carafe. The small fire resulted in damage to the adjacent microwave oven and small refrigerator, but with minimal damage to the room. Many coffee makers are used on site, so precautions are a necessity to prevent mishaps. If a coffee maker is to be left on for more than six hours, it should be of commercial quality. It should not be left unattended and placement should be a consideration.

Most potential electrical situations can be avoided if basic precautions are used, Clem said.

"Use only Underwriter's Laboratories rated electrical devices, including surge protectors," Clem said. "Look for a UL sticker. If it's not there, get a new device. It's a good idea to periodically check the electrical devices in work areas. Make sure power strips are not coming apart and check electrical wires for frayed insulation. Turn off, unplug, or stay away from anything that is sparking or seems defective. Call work control at x32038 to report any problems."

On April 2, employees can further educate themselves on electrical hazards by attending the Electrical Safety Fair in the Teague Auditorium from 10-2 p.m. Houston Lighting and Power will present various demonstrations and several on-site organizations also will participate.

NASA-JSC